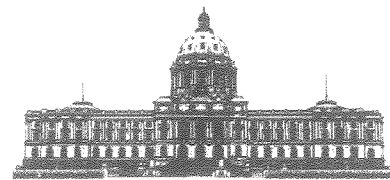


January 8, 2013

President Eric Kaler  
Office of the President  
202 Morrill Hall  
100 Church Street S.E.  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455



## Senate

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### State of Minnesota

Dear President Kaler,

Thank you so much for our meeting yesterday. We appreciate your willingness to meet on such short notice and your openness to our conversation. We are fortunate to have you at the helm of this great University.

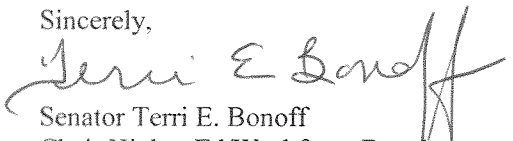
As we discussed, the current discourse regarding the administrative costs at the University of Minnesota has taken on a life of its own. Stories like this too often become sensationalized and can be challenging to deal with. Working through complex issues in the press is often counterproductive. We believe it is in our mutual best interest to establish a working relationship to formulate real and attainable benchmarks. I sensed from our meeting that you share in this belief. Raising these issues together offers us an opportunity to be catalysts for great change.


Senator Bakk, our Majority Leader, and I have discussed our meeting. We both appreciate that you openly welcome our request to use a data driven approach to analyzing the cost of delivering educational services. We understand the complexity of your varied missions, and also understand how important it is to have clear and measurable analytics so that efficiency goals can be met. As a scientist, you have a reverence for data that most certainly surpasses ours.

As we discussed, we ask that you enact both a short-term analysis, such as a Span and Layers analysis, as well as exploring the in-depth analysis that other Big Ten Universities have conducted. Because we are dealing with the legislative calendar, we ask that you provide us with an interim report no later than March 15. We understand that a thorough analysis will likely take more time, yet having this interim report will provide us with a strong tool as we formulate and hope to pass our 2013 budget.

Your success is imperative to the vitality of this state and its economy. We look forward to partnering with you this session to ensure that we both fulfill our obligations on behalf of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Terri E. Bonoff  
Chair Higher Ed/Workforce Development

  
Senator Thomas M. Bakk  
Majority Leader

CC: Linda Cohen - Chair Regent; David Larson - Vice Chair Regent; Clyde Allen - Regent; Richard Beeson - Regent; Laura Brod - Regent; Thomas Devine - Regent; John Frobenius - Regent; Venora Hung - Regent; Dean Johnson - Regent; David McMillan - Regent; Maureen Ramirez - Regent; Patricia Simmons - Regent; Lawrence Pogemiller - Director of Minnesota Office of Higher Education; Senator Jeremy R. Miller - Ranking Minority Member of Higher Ed/Workforce Development

